

Program Summary Community Colleges 2+2 Partnerships and Transfer Articulation

Program Overview

Two-plus-two partnerships enable students to take lower division courses at 2-year community colleges and complete their baccalaureate degrees at a participating university. They are unique agreements between a community college and a university, that allow for a smooth transfer of credits and admission.

Offering the program at the local community college ensures accessibility for students, and relieves financial strain on universities. Exempting career education programs, the goal of which is to obtain employment and not transfer, students can acquire several exempted degrees through the program depending on the curriculum partnership between the faculty at a community college and the faculty at a university.

Two-plus-two began in the 1970s, and was used most often between the urban community colleges (Maricopa and Pima) and the local universities, Arizona State University (ASU) and the University of Arizona (UA). Maricopa Community Colleges used this type of partnership extensively with ASU until the mid-1990s, when the statewide transfer model was created and adopted by all public institutions of higher education. In recent years, because of the success of the statewide transfer model, the partnerships have declined except in areas where the programs are specific to an institution.

Community college students find out about existing two-plus-two partnerships largely from their academic advisors. The community college academic advising offices have lists of the disciplines and institutions where partnerships exist. Some community colleges list two-plus-two partnerships in their catalogs and on their Web sites. By working with community college advisors and university guidance counselors, students learn about, and can arrange to participate in a 2+2 program. Advisors also provide students with information about the statewide transfer model.

Related Issues

Transfer Articulation Agreements

In 1991 community colleges and public universities in Arizona structured an agreement that allows student to build education curriculum that is transferable upon completion without loss of credit to another public community college or university. The agreement is called the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC), and has 3 forms, the AGECA, AGECA-B, and AGECA-S for students in liberal arts,

business, or the sciences, respectively. Each form of the AGECA is comprised of 35 semester credits. The AGECA provides that students who complete the lower block of courses with a 2.0 GPA or higher will be admitted to the state public 4-year institutions without additional stipulations.

Community colleges offer degrees tailored specifically to mimic program study for the first 2 years at a university. For example, the Associate in Transfer Partnership degree (ATP) is an associate degree offered by an Arizona public community college based on a transfer articulation agreement with ASU. This is for students who have identified a major and plan to transfer to ASU. Students with a minimum cumulative GPA 2.0 (2.5 for non-resident) are exempted from ASU admission requirements; however, the ATP degree does not assure admission to any specific program at ASU. The University of Arizona also has requirements for the transfer; only 64 community college credit units may be applied toward their requirements for a bachelor's degree.

Community college districts offer variations on the ATP degrees. The Maricopa Community Colleges offers 3 transfer Associate degrees: Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Business (ABUS), and Associate in Science (AS). These degrees transfer as a "block," so the components are not examined separately to determine transferability. All credits are accepted and applied toward the designated baccalaureate degree. Some community college districts (Maricopa) have specific transfer articulation agreements with universities. This includes transfer articulation agreements with private, public and international baccalaureate degree-granting institutions that have achieved full accreditation or candidacy status with a regional accreditation commission.

Two-Plus-Two and State Transfer Model Comparison

The statewide transfer model provides flexibility in academic programs to the greatest number of students, regardless of the community college and university of choice. The Two-Plus-Two program provides a *guaranteed* pathway for a student in a specific major from a community college to a university. The statewide transfer articulation model addresses the needs of most transfer students in the state. Two-plus-two partnerships meet the needs of students in a specific program, at a specific community college, intending to transfer to a specific university. The transfer model has not replaced 2+2

programs. This is because 2+2 tends to be geared towards more specialized programs such as interior design or hotel management, which the statewide transfer model may not address.

The statewide model gives community college students options in their major and desired institution up until they have taken 35 units at the community college level. A student then makes his or her own choice on major and institution. The student could also continue in a major through the completion of a transfer Associates degree and within the policies of the statewide model. In this scenario all courses taken will transfer and apply to the program at all 3 universities.

There is generally no difference between two-plus-two agreements and the transfer model with respect to the number of credit hours that can be taken at the community college (60-64) and at the university (56-60). Two-plus-two programs work best for students in degree programs in which only 1 university offers a bachelor's degree. An example is the Hotel and Restaurant Management program at Northern Arizona University (NAU).

Northern Arizona University

Northern Arizona University (NAU) has a variety of two-plus-two programs coordinated with community colleges. The main NAU Flagstaff campus has 3 two-plus-two partnerships. NAU has a two-plus-two program agreement with Phoenix College and Scottsdale Community College in Hotel and Restaurant Management, and an agreement with all Maricopa Community Colleges in Interior Design. These partnerships are unique to NAU and exist outside the statewide transfer model.

NAU-Yuma has an established two-plus-two partnership with Arizona Western College (AWC); both share campus space and infrastructure. AWC offers the first 2-year associates degree, which transfers into a NAU bachelor's degree for the final 2 years. Programs include:

- Computer Information Systems
- Psychology/Sociology
- Administration of Justice
- Environmental Sciences
- Mathematics
- Elementary Education

Arizona State University

Arizona State University has the following Two-Plus-Two program agreements:

- Food Retail Management
- Recreation

- Teacher Education and Leadership
- Teacher Certification

The University of Arizona relies solely on the statewide transfer model.